

ABSTRACT

A laminate floor with custom images and a method for making the same are disclosed. The individual planks that make up the laminate floor each contain a base layer, a backing layer, an impact layer, a design layer, and a protective layer, which are laminated together, and have tongues and corresponding grooves in the sides of each plank. The design layer of each individual plank is made of a paper substrate and has a distinct section of an image printed on it. The laminate floor is then created by assembling the planks in a predetermined order and alignment to recreate the image on the floor. To create the laminate floor, an image is selected and digitized. The digitized image is then formatted to the dimensions of the flooring area desired, enhanced to a desired quality level, and segmented into distinct sections so that each section will fit on a plank. A digital layout is then created by aligning all of the sections so that they fit on a piece of base material, with spaces left between the section to account for later cutting and machining operations, and the digital layout is printed. The printed digital layout is then used as the design layer on a laminate flooring sheet, the laminate flooring sheet is cut into individual planks, and tongues and grooves are machined into the planks. The planks are then assembled in a predetermined order and alignment to create the laminate floor with the image.